

Senate Resolution No. 9

Introduced by Senator DeSaulnier

Relative to California Teen Safe Driving Week

WHEREAS, Law enforcement and other first responders, teachers, parents, and friends are all deeply impacted by the loss of teens from motor vehicle crashes on California's roadways; and

WHEREAS, Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for teens in the United States accounting for more than one in three deaths; and

WHEREAS, Per mile driven, teen drivers 16 to 19 years of age are four times more likely to crash than older drivers; and

WHEREAS, In 2009, more than 3,000 teens in the United States 15 to 19 years of age were killed and more than 350,000 were treated in emergency rooms for injuries suffered in motor vehicle crashes; and

WHEREAS, Seventy-seven percent of the 16-year-old drivers killed in motor vehicle crashes in California were at fault; and

WHEREAS, Seventy-five percent of all fatal teen collisions are caused by reckless and distracted driving and about 25 percent of the fatalities involve alcohol and drugs; and

WHEREAS, Drivers who use handheld devices, such as cell phones, are four times more likely to get into crashes that cause serious injury; and

WHEREAS, Thirty-four percent of teens 16 and 17 years of age say they have texted while driving and 48 percent of all teens 12 to 17 years of age say they have been in a car when the driver was texting; and

WHEREAS, Despite the fact that California has the highest rate of seatbelt usage in the nation, 37 percent of the 16-year-old passengers who died in motor vehicle crashes in California were not wearing seatbelts; and

WHEREAS, Approximately two-thirds of the deaths of teen passengers 13 to 19 years of age occur when other teens are driving; and

WHEREAS, One in three teen drivers are involved in motor vehicle crashes during their first year of driving; and

WHEREAS, There is no in-car driver training in California's high schools and although driver's education is required in California's public school curriculum, only about one-third of the high schools actually offer it due to budget and staff limitations; and

WHEREAS, A 16-year-old soccer player has had about 1,500 hours of coached soccer practice, but only 50 hours of driving practice before getting his or her license; and

WHEREAS, A manicurist is required to have 400 supervised hours of training in order to get a license, but a teen driver needs only six hours of behind-the-wheel driving experience supervised by a professional; and

WHEREAS, It is necessary to raise awareness; reach teens, parents, and teachers; and influence change in risky driving behavior in order to reduce the number of teens killed on California's roadways each year; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, That the week of March 6, 2011, be declared "California Teen Safe Driving Week"; and be it further

Resolved, That with the help of law enforcement organizations, teachers, parents, students, and the Impact Teen Drivers program, a nonprofit organization aimed at stopping reckless and distracted teen driving, the State of California will observe the week of March 6, 2011, with appropriate activities that promote the practice of safe driving among teen drivers.

Senate Resolution No. 9 read and adopted by the Senate March 3, 2011.

Attest: _____
Secretary of the Senate